(b) how many new trains are being introduced for the Janata traveller, as compared to Rajdhanis, Shatabdis etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATTON(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways are a member of the International Union of Railways since 1957. Its French name is "Union Internationale des chemins de fer." However this is an Association of Railways having 138 members; and it cannot be described as 'Elite.' The steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the railways to make the journey of passengers better, safer and cheaper are as under:

(i) Bed rolls are now supplied to all the passengers travelling in AC 3 tier coaches without realising any charge in the train;

(ii) Provision of cushioned berths in sleeper class coaches;

(iii) Supply of water pouches with the meal to the passengers;

(iv) Provision of Interactive Voice Response System;

(v) Improvement of passenger Information system;

(vi) Provision of signage etc. at stations;

(vii) Introduction of computerised reservation system at more and more cities;

(viii) Introduction of Tatkal reservation system in trains to provide reservation at short notice;

(ix) Introduction of UIC vestibules to facilitate inter-coach access to passengers on run;

(x) PVC flooring inside coaches and stainless steel Mays in the toilets of all types of coaches;

(xi) Regular cleaning of water tanks provided in coaches;

(xii) Periodic intensive cleaning of coaches;

(xiii) Rake renovation particularly of passenger trains.

(b) During the current year 26 pairs of Express trains are being introduced. Out of these only 2 pairs of weekly trains are of Rajdhani type. All the remaining trains are meant for serving the common traveller.

Expansion of Calcutta.Metro System

746. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided that expansion of the Calcutta Metro System will be feasible only if Government of West Bengal contributes two-thirds of the investment cost;

(b) whether this decision implies formal concurrence with the view that railway development in the country is the joint responsibility of the Union and State Government; and

(c) whether under the circumstances Government propose to enact an amendment to the constitution transferring 'Railways' from the Union List of the Sixth Schedule to the Concurrent List?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of serious constraint of funds in the Railway Plan for works to cater for long distance passenger and freight traffic, Railways have been requesting the State Governments to participate in the funding of the urban rail transport projects as the primary beneficiary of the project is the State/City.

(c) No, Sir.

Notification on reservation orders in Railway Services

747. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of notifications to which reservation orders do not apply (exemption from reservation orders) in the Railway services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF